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ARGENTINA

President Peron is continuing to resist military demands that she either resign or take an immediate leave of absence.

The three service commanders and their staffs met again on December 29 to discuss her continuance in the presidency and unanimously agreed that she must give up power. Advised later about the decision, Peron reportedly rejected the generals' desires, insisting that she must remain chief executive without conditions. Nonetheless, she offered to change her cabinet and remove two staunch supporters, her private secretary and a Peronist labor chief. The three commanders replied that the issue of her removal from office is not negotiable.

Although the situation is at an impasse, the generals' decision that the President step aside appears irreversible. The longer she refuses to leave, the firmer the generals will become in their belief that a solution can begin only when she is removed from power.

Meanwhile, the President continues to lose support within the congress. On December 31, the Chamber of Deputies voted "no-confidence" against its president—a staunch supporter of Peron—and in effect called for his resignation. On December 26, a motion calling for impeachment proceedings against President Peron on grounds of incompetence reached the Chamber of Deputies. Although this move will undoubtedly gain more support than an earlier effort, opposition forces probably will not be able to muster the two-thirds majority required for passage. Debate on the motion, however, will further discredit the President. [redacted]

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